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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 10/687,594 | 10/20/2003 | Takuya Noda | 1359.1085 | 2548 |
| 21171 | 7590 | 07/09/2008 | EXAMINER | |
| STAAS & HALSEY LLP | | | SIEDLER, DOROTHY S | |
| SUITE 700 | | | | |
| 1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| WASHINGTON, DC 20005 | | | 2626 | |
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| | | | 07/09/2008 | PAPER |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

| | | | |
|--|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Supplemental Notice of Allowability | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/687,594 | NODA ET AL. | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |

Dorothy Sarah Siedler 2626

-- **The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to the IDS received 6-20-08.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3,5,9 and 10.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____ .
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 6-20-08
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ .
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with H.J. Staas on March 30, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows: replace claim 10 with the following:

10. A recording medium encoded with a computer-executable program for realizing a voice interactive method, the program causing the computer to execute:
 - performing acoustic signal processing with respect to an input voice signal and producing a processed, output signal;
 - recognizing contents of a voice contained in the processed, output signal after the input voice has been subjected to the acoustic signal processing;
 - transmitting information to a user through a voice output or a combination of the voice output and another information transmission unit based on the contents of the voice; and

determining whether a barge-in function of suspending transmission of information by an input or an output in the acoustic signal processing or an input signal from an external input the transmitting information to a user is set to be effective or non-effective, wherein, in the, determining:

one or more feature values are detected from the input voice signal or the processed, output signal or the input signal from the external input, and whether or not the barge-in function is set to be effective is determined based on the one or more feature values, and the one or more feature values include positional information of the user detected from the input signal from the external input, and

an environment evaluation value of a position of the user is calculated based on the positional information and environmental information on the position, and the barge-in function is determined to be non-effective in the case where the environment evaluation value exceeds a predetermined threshold value by comparing the position of the user with previously recorded map information that represents noise levels in a plurality of areas.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 9 and 10 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The examiner has reviewed the IDS filed June 20, 2008, and maintains that the whole structure expressed by the combination of all limitations is not made obvious compared to the

prior art of record for the whole invention, particularly calculating an environment evaluation value of a position of the user by comparing the position of the user with previously recorded map information that represents noise levels in many areas, where a barge-in function is set to be non-effective in a case where the environment evaluation value exceeds a predetermined threshold value. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

/Richemond Dorvil/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2626